

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7501
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2977

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PROP US LA APER
SUBJECT: EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES ATTEND SECOND WEEKEND SEMINARS

REF VIENTIANE 2937

1. THIRTY EIGHT U.S. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES ATTENDED THE SECOND WEEKEND OF SEMINARS FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS' EMPLOYEES DECEMBER 24-26, REFTEL. THE EMPLOYEES WERE REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT THEIR THIRD AND FINAL SEMINAR WOULD LAST ONLY ONE DAY, DECEMBER 31.

2. ALL MISSION' EMPLOYEES WERE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE DETAILED STATEMENTS REGARDING THEIR DUTIES AND THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THEIR OFFICES. THEY WERE ALSO REQUIRED TO INDICATE THEIR SALARIES, PROMPTING WIDESPREAD CONCERN AMONG EMPLOYEES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON REQUIRE THEM TO TURN THEIR SALARIES OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR "EQUALIZATION" WITH SALARIES PAID GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

3. ONE U.S. LOCAL WHO WAS CHOSEN TO REPRESENT HER
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"DISCUSSION GROUP" (PARA 5, REFTEL WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD BY SEMINAR INSTRUCTORS THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED EVENTUALLY TO PLACE ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS' EMPLOYEES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE SEMINAR INSTRUCTOR REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT IF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION WISHED TO HIRE

A NEW WORKER, IT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REQUEST THE
ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE THROUGH THE MFA.

4. COMMENT: U.S. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL
SALARIES RANGE FROM 100,700 TO 374,000 "LIBERATION
KIP", ON AN EXPANDED 48 HOUR WORK WEEK. SALARIES
FOR LPDR EMPLOYEES WITH SIMILAR JOB DESCRIPTION RANGE
FROM 119,428 TO 173,212 "LIBERATION KIP" FOR A 42 HOUR
WORK WEEK. ANY GOVERNMENT ACTION TO "EQUALIZE" THESE
SALARY RANGES WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO SENIOR GRADE
EMPLOYEES AND WOULD NO DOUBT RESULT IN SOME ATTRITION
OF THESE MORE VALUABLE EMPLOYEES FROM U.S. EMBASSY
ROLLS.

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Message Attributes

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